

In the Claims

1. – 43. (canceled)

44. (new) An implantable medical device comprising a coating and a therapeutic substance, the coating including a graft polymer having a main chain segment and a side chain segment, wherein the main chain segment has a different degree of solubility than the side chain segment so as to cause phase separation of the segments on the coating on the device and wherein the therapeutic substance has a preferential solubility for one segment over the other segment.

45. (new) The implantable device of Claim 44, wherein the main chain includes poly(ethylene-co-vinyl alcohol).

46. (new) The implantable device of Claim 44, wherein the main chain includes poly(ethylene-co-vinyl alcohol) and the side chain includes polyethylene oxide.

47. (new) The implantable device of Claim 44, wherein the main chain includes poly(ethylene-co-vinyl alcohol) and the side chain is derived from polyethylene oxide having an isocyanate moiety.

48. (new) The implantable device of Claim 44, wherein the main chain segment is more hydrophobic than the side chain segment.

49. (new) The implantable device of Claim 44, wherein the preferential solubility is towards the side chain segment.

50. (new) An implantable medical device comprising a coating, the coating including a poly(ethylene-co-vinyl alcohol) conjugated to a polyethylene oxide.

51. (new) The implantable device of Claim 50, additionally comprising a drug.

52. (new) The implantable device of Claim 50, additionally comprising a drug having preferential solubility for the polyethylene oxide.

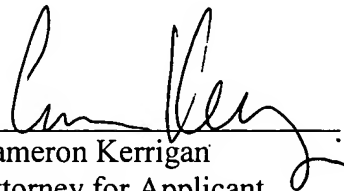
53. (new) An implantable medical device comprising a coating, the coating including a product of reaction of poly(ethylene-co-vinyl alcohol) and a polyethylene oxide having an isocyanate functionality.

If the Examiner has any questions or concerns, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned attorney at (415) 954-0323.

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Respectfully submitted,


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